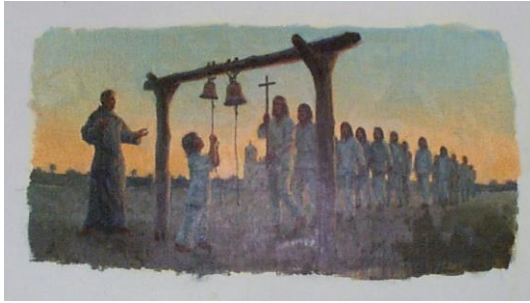


A DAY IN THE LIFE OF MISSION ESPADA, 1778



At the break of dawn a bell rings, arousing the mission Indians to assemble for prayer and religious instruction. An Indian official checks carefully to determine who is absent and why.

After church, the mission Indians return to their homes for a breakfast of *atole*. After breakfast, everyone goes off to his or her assigned work for the day. Men, women, boys, and girls all have different jobs and chores.

Some men are building the mission; others are making or repairing equipment. Boys and young men, *apprenticed* to *master carpenters*, *blacksmiths*, or *masons*, learn a trade while working. Elderly men make arrows for the mission defense force, while swapping stories. Other men practice loading and firing *muskets* and cannon. Mounted guards protect those working in the *labores* from frequent raids by enemy tribes. The corn is not yet ready to harvest, so only a few men are farming.

While watching the young children, women prepare food or spin wool into yarn. Several gather around a *horno* to bake. Other women are dying yarn for the men who weave cloth. Elderly women fish or *seine* the *acequia*, and tend to the sick. Girls learn the skills needed to be good wives and mothers in Spanish society.

All boys and girls learn about Catholicism from the priest. A few boys receive additional instruction, in hopes they will enter the priesthood.

At noon the bell tolls for prayers and lunch. Lunch is the main meal consisting of meat and vegetables. *Siesta* follows as sentries maintain a watch over the community. Comanche have been seen in the region. Mid-afternoon everyone return to his or her chores.

The workday ends in late afternoon with an evening worship service and more religious instruction. The evening meal is *atole*, which is a favorite food of the Indians. Supervised recreation fills the time to sunset. Children may play tag or marbles. Some Indians are learning to play the guitar or violin, which are used in worship. Spanish dances are taught as an acceptable form of recreation.

Sunset brings an end to the day. Mission Espada is now silent, awaiting a new day.

[Words in *italics* are in the glossary.]